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New pizza shop page 4 Odour page 13 HHSS Exhibition page 17

Friend to firefighters
First responders across the county opened their doors on Friday, May 1. The event invited families to get up close and personal with emergency vehicles and meet our first responders. /TIM YANO, staff photographer

Head Lake Bridge almost back to the drawing board

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

"I think we're onto something here," opened Rob Camelon, the director of public works for the Municipality of Dysart during the April 28 regular meeting.

Camelon was presenting a report on the status of the Head Lake Pedestrian Bridge; a topic that has been bounced around a number of times to council, with various iterations taken into consideration around price points.

During the last discussion in March, Camelon was responsible for sharing with council that the contracted group, DM Wills, recommended an arched bridge for the waterway. Council disputed the suggestion, unhappy with the requirements and cost associated with the project.

The reasoning for the arched bridge

see PUBLIC page 12

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Toxic drug supply raises alarm bells in Haliburton

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

A recent slew of local drug overdoses has led to Lakelands Public Health formally issuing a statement sharing information on a toxic drug supply.

"It is important to be aware that the unregulated drug supply may be contaminated with other substances," reads the press release. "Naloxone should be used in all suspected drug overdoses, due to the possibility of opioid contamination or poisoning."

Lakelands noted that there has been a high number of suspected drug poisonings which have required support from paramedic services, with the substance of concern suspected to be opioids. This warning comes on the heels of a recent warning of suspected poisoning from Northumberland County shared on April 16.

"Public Health Units are responsible for opioid overdose surveillance," explained Kate Hall, substance use and harm reduction coordinator for Lakelands Public Health. "However, if paramedics are not called to the scene of a drug poisoning or the person isn't taken to hospital, we have no way of knowing that it occurred. What we see in the data is only telling part of the story of what is happening in our communities."

Hall noted that the health unit began the practice of alerting the public to drug poisonings in 2019, with the last warning issued in August, 2021.

"Drugs, like people, travel from one community to another," explained Hall. "Unfortunately, without drug checking capabilities in our communities, we have no way of knowing what drugs are circulating at any given time. We rely on analysis and reporting by Toronto Drug Checking Service that accepts samples from anywhere in the province for testing, to better understand what is happening in the unregulated supply and inform our communities."

> ***"Drugs, like people, travel from one community to another."***
>
> — Kate Hall, substance use and harm reduction coordinator for Lakelands Public Health

Hall explained that drug poisoning happens when a person unknowingly consumes a substance that has been adulterated, and is not what they thought or what they usually consume. She said that an overdose from a drug poisoning happens when the quantity, potency and/or mix of substances consumed overwhelms the body, and the organs cannot process it.

"Opioids, like fentanyl for example, are known to depress the respiratory system," she said. "The unregulated street supply of opioids is mixed with multiple substances that each have different effects on our brain and body. Drug poisonings happen due to a contaminated and increasingly toxic and unpredictable unregulated street drug supply."

According to recent research from the University of Victoria, it is estimated that for every one fatal overdose from drug poisoning, there are 15 non-fatal overdoses. "Synthetic drugs target the central nervous system, particularly the brainstem which controls breathing," Hall explained. "There are growing concerns about acquired brain injury as a result of opioid-induced respiratory depression that can happen in a non-fatal overdose situation."

Signs of an opioid overdose may include:

- very small pupils
- slow or no breathing
- cold and clammy skin
- blue or purple fingernails or lips
- snoring or gurgling sounds
- heavy sedation, difficulty being woken up

Anyone who sees a person experiencing drug poisoning is urged to intervene. Call 9-1-1, give the person naloxone, and start rescue breathing and, or chest compressions. The Good Samaritan Act protects anyone trying to help in an emergency from possible legal repercussions. The Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act also helps protect people on the scene of an overdose from being charged for using or possessing drugs for personal use.

Free naloxone kits are available at all Lakelands Public Health offices, participating local pharmacies, and other local agencies.

Governance structure to be discussed at all levels

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

In an effort to ensure transparency and accountability, the County of Haliburton CAO Gary Dyke has been making his rounds to the lower-tier council tables to discuss the affordability and governance structure study put in place by the upper tier.

During an April 8 meeting of County council, Dyke made the proposal to work alongside Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN), an organization created by the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus, to facilitate a report that would delve into the structure of a multi-tiered governance model.

County councillors unanimously agreed to allow Dyke to move forward, with the caveat that it would be the responsibility of the next elected council to move forward with any potential restructuring.

During the April 28 meeting of Dysart council, Dyke once again presented his suggestions to the lower tier. "I applaud the whole approach to get the public involved," said Councillor Pat Casey. "I think it's important to everyone to have transparency as to what money is coming in and what's going out."

Casey went on to share that he has heard frustrations about the multi-tiered governance structure when it comes to planning. "I struggle with it a lot," he said, "that we have to go through a second tier of full planning and full studies and full proof of a lot of different things. And a lot of it is already done in our tier. It often discourages development."

Dyke noted the service delivery review completed in 2022, which outlines inefficiencies within the tiered system, which will be pulled from for the overall study.

Deputy Mayor Walt McKechnie questioned what level the provincial and federal governments will be playing in downloading responsibilities and taxation to the lower tiers. "I feel very worried … about what's going on at a provincial level and at a federal level," he said.

Dyke agreed. "There should be more support from the provincial and federal government on the housing front, there should be more support from the provincial government on the healthcare front and social services piece," he said. "However, I think within the structure that we have, I firmly believe that … the more work we put into understanding and making sure we are functioning at the highest level we can, those opportunities will increase."

Councillor Barry Boice voiced his concern about losing the specific identities of the varying Municipalities should an amalgamation of the county take place. "I worry that we're going to get forgotten about at the lower end," he said.

"That's a very good point to make," said Dyke, "and it's one that's not lost on us … Yes, a boundary may change or whatever that may be, but the elements that make it a community a community … should be able to go forward."

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Student art showcase envisions green future

Families had the opportunity to celebrate children's art works on Wednesday, April 29. This year's showcase focused on kid's creating art from an eco-conscious lens. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

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Pizza Pasta Plus opens in Haliburton

THOMAS SMITH
Journalist

Scott Muirhead opened his restaurant Pizza Pasta Plus on April 25. Serving pizza, pasta, sandwiches and more, they are located at 41 Maple Avenue. Stop by for a hot slice. /THOMAS SMITH staff

Scott Muirhead may be new to Haliburton, but he is already making moves to better his community.

For the past 28 years, Muirhead has been behind the wheel of a truck and in his spare time, he volunteers with Station 3 of the Highlands East fire department.

Now with Pizza Pasta Plus, he can give back in the form of delicious food too.

During this past slow season for trucking, Muirhead decided to take the leap and open his first brick and mortar restaurant, Pizza Pasta Plus.

Located at 41 Maple Avenue, don't let the simplicity of Pizza Pasta Plus fool you. Their food is nothing but ordinary.

With early beginnings as a hot dog cart in Gooderham, Muirhead improved his offerings in the form of a food trailer called Belle's Lil' Food Cabin. Serving hamburgers, hot dogs, and wraps, Muirhead was helped by his daughter, pulling it to events and the local gas station.

"I have always enjoyed making food," said Muirhead.

Muirhead says it was the higher population and the influx of cottagers that attracted him to the former site of Haliburton Just Wine and Beer. With only one dedicated pizza restaurant in Haliburton, Muirhead is confident that his love of both pizza and pasta will allow him to be successful in Haliburton.

It was from an online poll that Muirhead decided to lean into the Italian food angle. He is also pleased to offer a fine array of sandwiches and salads.

Muirhead's personal favourite is his Philly Cheesesteak pizza. Using a provolone base and toppings of mozzarella, slow cooked steak, mushrooms, peppers and onions, the pizza imitates an authentic cheesesteak from the city of brotherly love.

"The provolone, steak, and mozzarella is a really good combination," he said.

Initially, Muirhead sought to open the restaurant as a solo venture. With an outpour of support and interest on his opening on Saturday, April 25, he had to call in temporary reinforcements of his wife.

"We were slammed," said Muirhead. "People were lining up out the door."

Soon, Muirhead's 19 year old daughter Paiton will be joining Pizza Pasta Plus.

"I didn't expect to be that busy, especially being this small little shop. People were willing to wait for their order because we were so busy. It felt good."

Muirhead says that the flow of customers has continued in the first week of being opened. After receiving an interest in gluten free options, he now stocks gluten free dough and pasta.

The number one goal of Pizza Pasta Plus is to offer food at affordable prices and foster a welcoming environment for families. On one side of the restaurant, there is even a dedicated kid's corner for playing and colouring while kids wait.

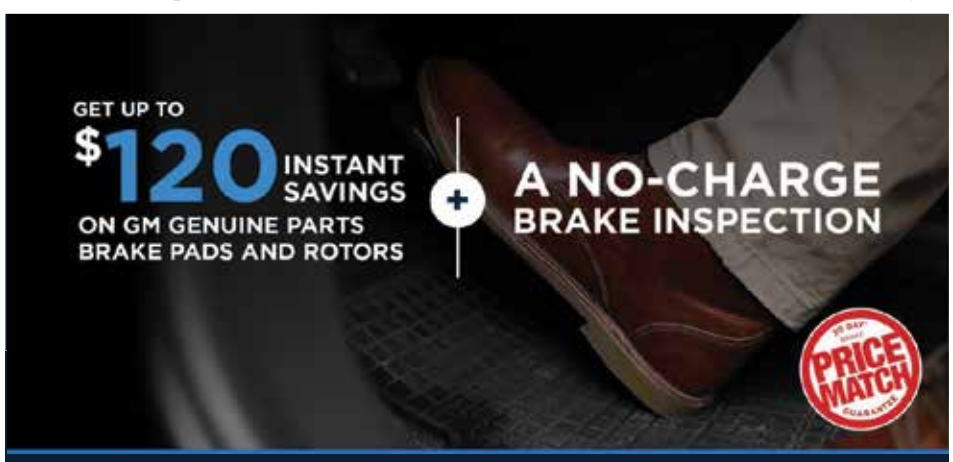
"It's great to see families come in with their kids and enjoying the food," said Muirhead. "There is something about seeing a smile on a little kid's face."

Everything is made fresh to order. For now, new topping combinations will be added to the menu as they are dreamt up.

"I love seeing the start with that dough. Then stretching it out and afterwards, the finished product that comes out of the oven," said Muirhead. "You create something that you cannot find anywhere."

Muirhead's next goal is to train Paiton towards taking over the restaurant, supporting her from the sidelines.

Haliburton Pizza Pasta Plus is open on Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Fridays from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturdays from noon to 8 p.m. and Sundays from noon to 6:30 p.m. Local delivery is available. The restaurant is also currently hiring and asking for students to bring their resume into the restaurant to apply.



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THE ECHO HALIBURTON COUNTY

The Times MINDEN ONTARIO

Rosemary Sullivan owner of Sole to Soul Alternative Health offers reflexology, an amethyst bed with infrared therapy, timing forks and rife machine, and grounding tea. Sessions at Lakeside Gem.

A wicked good time

Andrew and Jennifer Nowell of Wicked Wizard's Wife had a successful grand opening on Saturday. Visit their shop inside Castle Antiques, open daily. Find the cool wares from Mystic Market sold there, in addition to tarot readings and workshops coming soon. /IVY KATZ staff

Mary Jane "Kat" McLeod of Mary's Majikal Meadow is a meadowcrofter and offers all organic and natural self aid products.

Tarot Readings by Sarah was constantly busy.

Psychic Amanda Marie holds up a guinea pig turned piggy bank from Roadkill Revival which specialises in soft mounts and taxidermy.

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Identify

WHILE THE County of Haliburton undergoes the process for a governance structure study, CAO Gary Dyke has ventured to each lower tier table to discuss the roll-out of the project.

Earlier this year, County councillors agreed to move ahead with the study. Dyke has urged along the way that we at least need to have the wheels in motion to show the province that we're not just sitting in that cushy place of status quo.

But at this week's Dysart meeting, when Dyke brought the project to councillors, as talk around numbers and responsibilities and logistics simmered down, Ward 5 councillor Barry Boice voiced one worry we've all been thinking about: identity.

"I worry that we're going to get forgotten about at the lower end," he said.

This is one of those softer points that isn't always taken into consideration during the process of reporting and consultancy. The people who make a community tick, the little idiosyncrasies and stories and mannerisms that serve as the personality of a population, a heartbeat of a home.

It's something we have been navigating at our own papers. While we see the value in having one countywide newspaper, the history and heart of the early days is the foundation of who we are today. Both the Haliburton County Echo and the Minden Times offer over 100 years of community representation; a delicate balance of the past and the present.

And while the numbers and responsibility and logistics all point towards amalgamating our offerings, there's a tiny twinge of cutting ties with the past that none of us are quite ready to snip.

There is risk and value in both options for county amalgamation. If we do not become one, ongoing inefficiencies in planning, in taxation, in roadwork, in programming will continue to stack up. In Doug Ford's practice of slashing and burning anything that does not directly serve his government, it's highly likely that the province will force some sort of bundling down the road anyway.

If we get ahead of the wrecking ball, then it's in our court. There's power in venturing ahead of the game.

But if we do begin to fall under one name, one government, one place, what happens to the cracks and corners of our community? The personality of a population, the heartbeat of a home.

When we pigeonhole groups, we dilute the culture that trickles back through time. While we all bleed red, we are also the product of the place that raised us. And we should carry that title with pride.

County staff will have to work diligently to ensure that the pride of place is not swept out the door when numbers and responsibility and logistics are placed on the forefront. Does it make sense to work towards a governance structure that prioritizes moving towards the future? Absolutely. But it needs to be done in a way where our past and our present are taken into consideration.

Because the black and white framework of numbers and responsibility and logistics can only account for so much. The real colour of a community comes from the personality of a population, the heartbeat of a home.

And that's something money can't buy.

Emily Stonehouse

Editorial

Unethical design tested in the courts

IN LATE March, a jury in California ruled that Meta and Google were liable for harming the mental health of a young woman named Kaley. Identified in the lawsuit as KGM (as she was a minor at the time the lawsuit began in 2023), Kaley started using YouTube at the age of six, and Instagram at the age of 11, among other social media platforms, resulting in anxiety, depression, and body dysmorphia.

KGM v Meta et al. is considered a bellwether case among a number of similar cases that are meant to test the law around problematic social media use in California. In all, there are thousands of similar cases in California waiting in the wings, and the outcomes of those cases may be directly related to the success of the KGM case. This could also include lawsuits for online harms brought against Meta, TikTok, and Snapchat by a group of Ontario school boards (which includes our own Trillium Lakelands District School Board).

Humans & **Technology**

Erin Kernohan-Berning

The lawsuit (which initially also involved TikTok and Snapchat, who settled out of court), didn't focus on the content being posted to the social media platforms that caused KGM harm. This is because under Section 230 of the US Communications Decency Act of 1996, "interactive computer services" cannot be held liable for the content posted by their users. Section 230 is considered a key piece of legislation that enabled the creation of important foundations of internet services including search engines and cloud services. However, it has also been a major stumbling block in holding social media companies accountable for online harms. Instead, KGM's lawyers focused on specific design features of Instagram and YouTube that they argued kept her compulsively using those platforms.

The kinds of features *KGM v Meta et al.* focused on included infinite scroll, autoplay of video, and algorithmic feed recommendations, calling them defective. These features, among others, have been shown to be designed to capture a user's attention and maximize their time on a platform. If you ever find yourself absentmindedly scrolling Instagram, Facebook, or TikTok where an algorithmic feed is the default, your attention has been captured by this deceptive design. Citing internal documents from both Meta and Google, KGM's lawyers were able to show that these features – which they cited as contributing directly to the mental health struggles Kaley experienced – were deliberately and knowingly implemented by these platforms and used to (despite their own age policies) target and retain young people.

While this case could certainly change how social media companies approach accountability in the design and safety of their platforms, it is only the first step. Meta and Google have both said they will appeal, and there are additional cases that will need to see success before a legal precedent is set that will change how these companies operate. Experts like University of Ottawa's Michael Geist and George Washington University's Jonathan G. Cedarbaum have both raised questions about whether the focus on these platforms as "defective" products will have the legal effect that plaintiffs hope it will. After all, every feature on Instagram is designed to do exactly what it does for a reason. To paraphrase *Ruined by Design* author Mike Monteiro, these products do what they do because they were designed that way.

Social media companies aren't the only ones facing legal pressure for unethical decisions. The families of the Tumbler Ridge school shooting victims, one of the worst mass shooting incidents in Canadian history, have filed a series of lawsuits against OpenAI. A ChatGPT account that was later linked to the shooter had been flagged for the risk of the user committing real-world violence – despite being warned by their internal safety team, OpenAI leadership opted not to warn police. These lawsuits join several others that are seeking damages from OpenAI, with ChatGPT implicated as a major contributing factor to serious mental health problems – in some cases resulting in the deaths of the people who were using the chatbot for support.

KGM vs Meta et al. has been called social media's "big tobacco moment." No amount of money won in these lawsuits will undo the harm caused by what were decisions made in pursuit of profit above all. No one knows that better than the plaintiffs in those cases. The goal is that with enough lawsuits, and consequently enough financial risk, tech companies like Meta and OpenAI will be forced to change how they prioritize user safety in the design of their platforms.

points of view

Fuel me once

IF, GOD forbid, somebody you know has had a complete heart stoppage and no medical assistance is within reach, you might want to quickly drive them to the nearest gas station. I'm not a doctor, but I'm certain that seeing the price of gas would jumpstart anyone's heart.

This confuses me since it was not that long ago that our federal government removed their gas tax. Like others, I thought this would provide relief for more than just a few days.

Sadly, the fuel companies know that they can easily raise prices and blame it on extenuating circumstances.

After all, there is an idiotic and unnecessary blockage in an important, strategic place that is currently choking international oil supply. But enough about the White House.

What matters now is how we get fuel prices down again.

Lucky for everyone, I've devised a plan that is so crazy that it just might work. If it does, it would open the Strait of Hormuz.

Loon Tales

Steve Galea

I know what you are thinking – greater minds than mine are already working on the problem. But, if you believe that, you obviously haven't been watching US government press conferences.

So, hear me out.

In an effort to reduce the price of gas, we've now tried freeing up oil reserves, opening the Strait of Hormuz, and reducing fuel taxes. And all these things have failed.

What we haven't tried yet is doing what everyone else does to make President Trump see their point of view. That's right, we haven't yet offered him a blatant and obvious bribe.

But what do you give a man who has someone else's Nobel Prize, and other awards that were made up just to please him?

Well, no one has given him a commemorative jacket yet, right?

The jacket I am proposing is a one-of-a-kind garment, long-sleeved and with plenty of real gold buckles. It would be white so he could wear it in the ball room that he dreams of. Most importantly, it would commemorate his imminent victory in the Strait of Hormuz. It could, and should be, a gift from the world.

That's right, we should get him a Strait Jacket.

Let's be honest. No one deserves a Strait Jacket more than President Trump. And I bet most people in the world think it would suit him too.

When he puts it on, and all the buckles are fastened tight, we could all just compliment him and tell him how he now looks like he's straight out of central casting. We don't need to mention *The One Flew Over the Cuckoos Nest* part.

Once he gets this jacket on and is basking in the media attention it gets him, we could take him to meet "Napoleon." I'm certain they would get along famously.

Also, you just know that he would soon be marketing these Strait Jackets to his MAGA base at an excellent rate of $99.99. And they would buy and wear them like they were going out of style too, because – surprise, surprise – they go with the hats.

To conclude, this simple functional jacket could solve the price issue at the pumps and keep him and his base occupied until the next election.

At that point, all we can do is hope that the American public chooses not to get fueled again.

pic *of the* past

This photo of the Emmerson Dam in Haliburton comes from Carol Moffatt and Tony Aymong's collection of pictures. Kim Emmerson, who maintains the dam today, says he thinks the photo was likely taken in the 1950s.

Choosing

IT WAS a miserable day. The overcast sky was threatening more rain any moment and the wind went right through Jim's jacket. He and Mitch were finishing up work, a satisfying pile of logs now cut, split and ready to stack. Best way to stay warm on a day like this was to keep busy and get that outdoor work done.

Or so Mitch liked to say even though Jim had to practically drag him out to the woodshed. It was only the promise of one of Monika's butter tarts that had finally done the trick. She had left a dozen at Jim's place as thanks for fixing her washing machine. He had even put up with her muttering about 'built-in obsolescence' as he worked away.

Our road Down

Sharon Lynch

Now the two men sat with their sugary treats and instant coffee in Jim's cluttered kitchen, talking politics. It was Jim who had raised the topic. Mitch, though not very informed, had plenty of opinions on the subject. His list of what was wrong with the world in general and their own little corner of it, was long. Jim challenged him to stop complaining and do something about it. Mitch looked at him and smirked. "What – run for Prime Minister?"he asked.

Jim pointed out that it was election day but Mitch had yet to say anything about voting. For himself, Jim was planning to do just that once he had satisfied his sweet tooth. But Mitch thought it was a waste of time. "It won't make any difference," he stated, "So why bother?"

Mitch came from a long line of close-knit skeptics who reinforced their own prejudices and beliefs. One of these was that all politicians were self-serving and didn't give a darn about the people they were supposed to serve. Jim, while not exactly naive, took a more positive, proactive approach. "If you don't vote, you have no right to complain," he stated.

Mitch grumbled. So Jim pushed it. He asked if Mitch even knew who was running for office? Well no, he didn't. But it didn't matter because they were all the same.

Now Jim went into a bit of a rant about democracy and how people got the government they deserved. Mitch just sat there, picking bits of pastry from between his teeth and looking skeptical. Then Jim told Mitch he was dropping by the polling station on his way home and wondered if Mitch might want to come along. "I'm having chili for supper and you're welcome to stay for that but only if you vote," he told his friend.

Mitch sighed. He really liked Jim's chili. And he had nothing else planned for the rest of the afternoon. As they rode to the community centre in Jim's truck, they talked about what needed to change in their little neck of the woods.

There was a short line-up at the polling station. Despite the bitter wind, people had shown up. "So who do you think might not be half-bad?" Mitch asked.

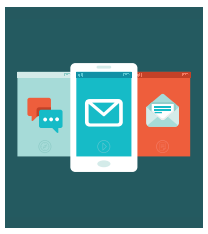
letters to the editor

MAHC asking too much

To the Editor,

Yours wasn't the only back to go up hearing of a financial ask from MAHC!!!! The very nerve to be taking offense because "we haven't stepped up" I find appalling!! This from a community with two hospitals with fully equipped Emergency Rooms, not to mention the Urgent Care Burk's Falls location asking a community that had one hospital shut down and urgent care on limited hours mostly due to lack of staff because of the health care shortage in this province! Let's not even get started on the number of the population that have no primary care!! Maybe they should take their ask to the guy with the deep pockets for his own agendas and who is one of the ones who will benefit most from these upgrades - *Mr.Ford!* Oh that's right! That's our money too!

Cecille Gibbons,
Minden



Have a thought, comment or opinion you'd like to share?

Send a letter to the editor to
emily@haliburtonpress.com

OUT AND ABOUT IN HALIBURTON BY: Tom Hilton

Senior games

Are you 55 or older? Do you play euchre, cribbage, golf, pickleball, shuffleboard, tennis, or just love to walk? Enjoy friendly competition? Meet new friends?

If you answer yes to these questions, consider joining the Ontario Senior Games Association and register to compete in the games.

For more information, go to our website district11.osga55plus.ca. Below is a chart of upcoming events and information to register.

Submitted

OSGA District 11 Summer Games 2026

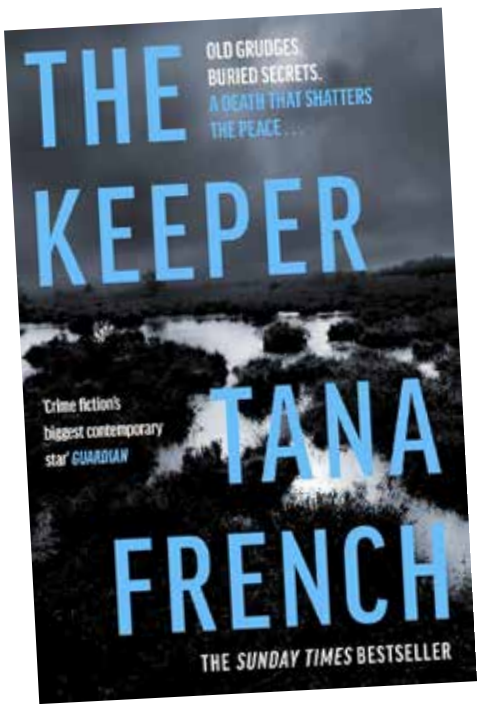
Event	Date	Time	Location	Convenor
5 PIN BOWLING:	Tuesday, May 26th	1:00pm	Minden Fast Lane Bowling	Denice Harrison 780-779-8777
BID EUCHRE:	Friday, May 1st	1:00pm	Gravenhurst Seniors Centre	Ruth Robertson 705-641-9363
	District Final: Friday, May 15th	1:00pm	Gravenhurst Seniors Centre	Ruth Robertson 705-641-9363
CRIBBAGE:	Thursday, May 28th	1:00pm	Kinmount Legion	Donna Teravainen 613-339-9960
	Monday, May 25th	1:00pm	Gravenhurst Seniors Centre	Barb Duce 705-641-8215
	District Final: Thursday, June 11th	1:00pm	Kinmount Legion	Donna Teravainen 613-339-9960
DARTS:	Saturday, May 16th	10:00am	Gravenhurst Seniors Centre	Jackie and Peter Bussecker 705-350-0059
EUCHRE:	Monday, May 11th	1:00pm	Minden Curling Club	Pearl Cowen 705-286-3473 Donna Darby 519-766-2761
	Thursday, May 14th	1:00pm	Gravenhurst Seniors Centre	Ruth Robertson 705-641-9363
	District Final: Friday, May 29th	1:00pm	Gravenhurst Seniors Centre	Ruth Robertson 705-641-9363
GOLF:	Wednesday, June 3rd **Rain Date:** Tuesday, June 16th	8:30am	Blairhampton Golf Course, Minden	Kathy Phillips 705-935-0358
PICKLEBALL:	Tuesday, June 9th	9:00am	SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena, Minden	Jennifer Coates 705-749-3787
SHUFFLEBOARD:	Thursday, June 4th	10:00am	Gravenhurst Seniors Centre	Ruth and Lorne Robertson 705-645-8688
TENNIS:	Tuesday, June 16th **Rain Date:** Thursday, June 18th	8:00am	Kerr Park, Bracebridge	Judy Keith 604-967-3900
WALKING:	Friday, May 29th **Rain Date:** Friday, June 5th	9:00am	Head Lake Park, Haliburton	Jane Symons 705-286-3003 Sharon Ferris 416-998-2564

Minden Memories

Here's a postcard from Kushog Lake in 1963 to inspire some cold plunges this Spring. /Photo courtesy of the Minden Hills Cultural Centre

HALIBURTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Book of the Week


THE KEEPER
OLD GRUDGES. BURIED SECRETS. A DEATH THAT SHATTERS THE PEACE...
'Crime fiction's biggest contemporary star' GUARDIAN
TANA FRENCH
THE SUNDAY TIMES BESTSELLER

On a cold night in a remote Irish village, a young woman disappears. Rachel Holohan, known for her kindness, was due to be engaged to the son of a powerful local figure. Instead, she is found dead in the river, and the town is thrown into shock.

In this close-knit community, her death is far from simple. Retired Chicago detective Cal Hooper is drawn into the case despite trying to live a quiet life. As tensions rise and old grudges resurface, a hidden scheme changes everything people thought about Rachel's death. Cal and his fiancée Lena soon find themselves caught in the middle of the growing conflict.

The Keeper by Tana French is available to borrow from the Haliburton County Public Library. Visit haliburtonlibrary.ca to place a hold or learn more.

Alto's commitment to rural communities

Agricultural land is essential to Canadians.

The economic, social, and environmental benefits of Alto are real. For many rural and agricultural communities, the concerns about land, operations, and day-to-day realities are just as real.

A train travelling at 320 km/h requires straight tracks. And yet there's no single reality in agriculture. It differs from one region to the next, and from one farm to another. This means the final route will be a trade-off and that there's no perfect solution to building it. Our job is to make sure we do this the right way; that entails limiting impacts, compensating fairly over the long term, and developing the right support for the farming industry as a whole.

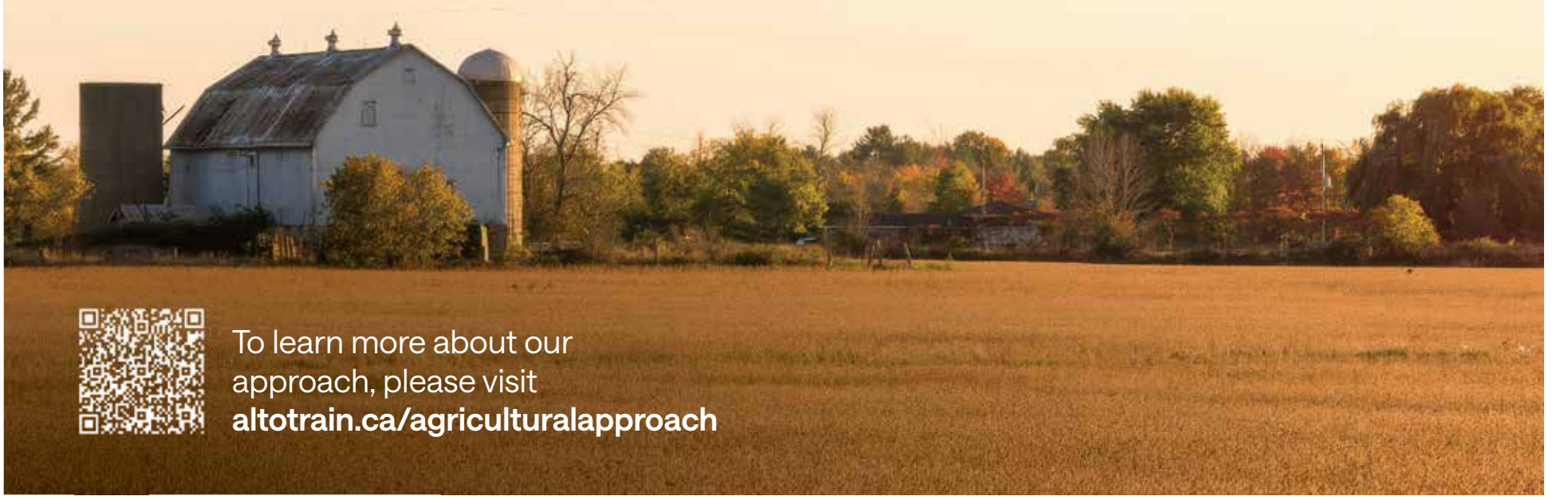
Countries like France and Italy with substantial farming communities have shown that high-speed rail and agriculture can coexist. That's what we're working to achieve here. That means doing the work with communities and being upfront about what we can commit to.

Since consultations began in January 2026, farmers and property owners have been clear about what's at stake for them. We have listened, and our commitments are straightforward:

- **Limit impacts from the start** by first defining a wide corridor under study, engaging early, and then selecting the alignment of about 60 metres wide, with the least impact.
- **Prioritize negotiated agreements** for land acquisition. We will favour an individually negotiated willing-buyer, willing-seller approach.
- **Offer fair long-term compensation** that covers fair market value and all impacts over time, including land value, disturbance costs, productivity losses and other long-term effects.
- **Ensure adapted road access** for agricultural operations when they are directly impacted, by negotiating with owners and stakeholders.
- **Support agricultural productivity and development** through novel solutions to enhance productivity, help preserve farmland, and empower the next generation of farmers.

These commitments set the direction, but we won't get there on our own. It will require a collective effort alongside agricultural organizations to further define the scope of these pledges.

This is our commitment. Because how we build matters just as much as what we build.



To learn more about our approach, please visit **altotrain.ca/agriculturalapproach**

Dos and don’ts of event management

THOMAS SMITH
Journalist

Events are a crucial part of communities to create a source of pride and to engage your residents and visitors.

As our climate changes, there are more factors for event organizers to consider.

To better support tourism operators across the Highlands, the Ontario Highlands Tourism Organization invited Jeff Jackson, Ph.D. to present “Emergency Preparedness Planning for Festivals and Events” over Zoom on Thursday, April 30.

Jackson is a leading expert in risk management and outdoors safety.

For every event you plan, the benefits must outweigh any potential risks. To do this, every event needs a risk management plan. The goal of a risk management plan is to prevent foreseeable events and reduce consequences of unforeseeable events.

For example, a foreseeable behavior is disorderly behaviour when people are drinking alcohol. An unforeseeable event is an unexpected storm.

“The goal is to protect our visitors, employees, volunteers and ourselves,” said Jackson.

The key safety concerns every event organizer should have is weather, missing children, injury of participants, physical safety, and any liabilities. There are also big differences between a spectator event, versus an active event such as a poker run.

“If we are inviting people to our event we have a responsibility, a legal responsibility to do that properly,” said Jackson

One fear that organizers brought up during the session is getting sued. Jackson quelled this fear by saying that people can sue for any reason they want. It is better to put those concerns into whether or not you would win your lawsuit.

As part of the Occupiers Liability Act, event hosts have an obligation to keep people reasonably safe while on the premises. The term reasonably safe implies different levels of safety per event. For example, if participants are running in a marathon, an injury is very possible.

Another difference is if someone participates in an event for free versus paid ticketing.

“That has what we call a lower duty of care, than if someone pays for a ticket,” said Jackson. “As soon as money changes hands, the expectations are up that we are going to take better care of them.”

With paid events, it is important to prove that you have undergone further lengths of safety, or else you may be held liable for negligence.

With all events, you need to clarify whether or not paying customers can get their money back in the event of a cancellation.

“Cancellations are going to become a thing,” said Jackson. “That was one of the reasons that I stopped it.”

Referring to his mountain biking event, Jackson says that the increase in spring storms forced him to cancel the event entirely. The risk of cancellation was not worth the potential earnings.

For all events, make sure to conform to local bylaws, get permits, and proper licenses, and if applicable, the fire marshal needs to conduct an inspection.

The other aspect is to ensure proper Occupational Health and Safety Standards for all employees and volunteers. If your event involves the water or off-roading, Transport Canada needs to know what your activity is and will tell you what permits apply to your event.

“You are actually breaking the law if you don’t get the bylaws in place or necessary permits,” said Jackson.

As of April 30, outdoor events can be bring-your-own-beer event, separate category of event permit

“I am thinking it might be opening a whole other can of worms you might not want to get into,” said Jackson.

Simply put, Jackson says that paying money to allow your event guests to bring their own alcohol does not make financial sense.

“Humans are terrible at predicting what can go wrong,” said Jackson.

All events have vulnerabilities like severe weather, power outages, permits, insurance, volunteers, and venue cancellations.

“If you hit these hazards in your event management plan, you are pretty well set,” said Jackson.

One role Jackson advises event organizers to have is an Event Safety Officer whose sole job is to continuously monitor event activities, emerging risks, and safety. The role would also include liaising with EMS and venue staff.

For every event, be 100 per cent certain who is responsible for cancelling.

Once you have created a plan, you can reuse it year after year.

Jackson recommends having people sign a waiver when guests get into the door of your event. Jackson says that there is clear language that is court tested to protect yourself in the event that someone sues.

“It is expensive to defend yourself and that is a liability,” said Jackson. “That is why you buy insurance, because they will defend you in court.”

No lawsuit will cost you less than $50,000, says Jackson.

A site security plan must be made before anyone arrives as well. This includes a smooth form of communication with your teams, making sure your site is suitable, and identifying emergency exits and gathering points.

With the aging population of Haliburton County, Jackson said that it is possible for anyone to experience an overdose, especially with painkillers.

“The idea of risk tolerance and setting limits is asking us what we are not comfortable with,” said Jackson.

With the increase in forest fires, Jackson says that it is now a moral dilemma of continuing with your event when there is smoke in the air. Currently, there are no legal repercussions for running your event when the air quality is poor.

When temperatures are high, Jackson advises having people be active when the day’s temps are the lowest and to take frequent breaks.

Alcohol is one of the biggest wild cards with event organization. You can never predict how intoxicated people will act.

“It kicks in a whole bunch of problems and obligations,” said Jackson. “It’s not the alcohol, it is the stupid behaviour of drunk people that causes issues.”

Kasey Rogerson, rep for OHTO says that there is a push to have alcohol-free events across the region.

Events are great ways to engage with your community or create your own business. Before starting any event, check with your local municipality’s rules and regulations. With many factors to consider, an event management plan is essential for running a successful event.

AVIS DE CANDIDATURE
Loi de 1996 sur les élections municipales (s. 32)

(Please be advised this is the French language version of the Notice of Nomination for French Language Public School Board Trustee – Counseiller(ère), Conseil scolaire Viamonde)

1 conseiller/ère scolaire francophone

Les candidats peuvent déposer leurs avis de candidature au poste de conseiller(ère) scolaire francophone lors des élections municipales et scolaires de 2026, qui représentera le secteur 1 et sera élu par tous les électeurs francophones de la région de Durham, les comtés d’Haliburton, de Northumberland et de Peterborough et les villes de Kawartha Lakes, Peterborough et Hastings en communiquant avec le secrétaire de la ville d’Oshawa, ou avec le secrétaire local/directeur du scrutin du comté de Haliburton aux coordonnées ci-dessous :

Ville d’Oshawa
50 rue Centre Sud
Oshawa (Ontario)
Tél : (905) 436-3311
Sans frais : 1 800 667-4292
www.oshawa.ca
clerks@oshawa.ca

Canton d’Algonquin Highlands
Directrice du scrutin – Dawn Newhook
1123 rue North Shore
Algonquin Highlands (Ontario) K0M 1S0
Tél. : 705-489-2379
www.algonquinhighlands.ca
dnewhook@algonquinhighlands.ca

Municipalité de Dysart et al
Directrice du scrutin – Amanda Duncombe-Lee
135 avenue Maple, C.P. 389
Haliburton, (Ontario) K0M 1S0
Tél. : 705-457-1740
www.dysartetal.ca
aduncombe-lee@dysartetal.ca

Municipalité de Highlands East
Directrice du scrutin - Robyn Rogers
2249 rue Loop, C.P. 295
Wilberforce, (Ontario) K0L 3C0
Tél. : 705-448-2981
www.highlandseast.ca
HEelection2026@highlandseast.ca

Canton de Minden Hills
Directrice du scrutin - Vicki Bull
7 rue Milne, C.P. 359
Minden, (Ontario) K0M 2K0
Tél. : 705-286-1260
Sans frais : 1-844-277-1260
www.mindenhills.ca
elections@mindenhills.ca

Les formulaires de candidature (formulaire 1) doivent être déposés, en personne ou par votre représentant, auprès du secrétaire/directeur du scrutin de la municipalité concernée durant les heures d’ouverture normales du 1er mai 2026 au jeudi 20 août 2026, et entre 9 h et 14 h le vendredi 21 août 2026 (jour de la nomination). Des frais de dépôt de 100 $ s’appliquent. Ils doivent être payés en liquidités, par débit ou par chèque ou mandat payables à l’ordre de la municipalité concernée.

Dennis Jones gets his KATVA permit checked by Kawartha ATV Association volunteer Howard Reeds.
/s ubmitted

Kawartha ATV association kicks off season

THOMAS SMITH
Journalist

With the warmer weather, nothing is better than getting outside and connecting with nature.

It makes it even better when you can feel the wind rush past your face as you drive deep into the forest on an off-road vehicle.

Despite some water on their trails the Kawartha ATV Association is stoked to announce that their trails are opening soon.

Carolyn Richards, president of the Kawartha ATV Association for 13 years was first asked to join their team with her business experience and the opportunity to change how they run things.

Since then, the association volunteer force has grown to 70 members, with around 250 riding members. Last year alone, the association sold around 5,000 day passes.

If you want to ride anywhere besides Crown Land in the City of Kawartha Lakes or Trent Hills, a trail permit is required to be purchased from the ATV association.

With twelve members on their board of directors and a team of trail maintenance personnel and patrol teams, it takes hundreds of hours to keep the off roading trails safe and suitable for riders.

Before opening the trails for the season, the association's trail maintenance crew work diligently to inspect trails and check for debris, washouts, and other unexpected issues. When needed, the organization will hire contractors to fix issues or send part of their volunteer force.

The Kawartha ATV Association is also the only ATV association in Ontario with volunteer bylaw officers appointed by the City of Kawartha Lakes.

With Algonquin West and Haliburton County ATV Clubs as neighbours, Richards says that they have a wonderful working relationship in ensuring accessible and rideable trails throughout Ontario.

Kawartha ATV attends to over 3,000 kilometres of trails and has one of the largest ATVing areas in the province. Their pride is the Victoria Rail Trail which runs from Bethany through Fenelon Falls and Lindsay, and ends in Kinmount. Hikers, mountain bikers, and the public are welcomed to walk along the trails, while being aware that they are used by off-road vehicles.

"They are multi-use trails for a reason," said Richards.

The Victoria Rail Trail system amongst other trails are maintained by organizations like Kawartha ATV, not the local municipality. They are happy to keep the trails open to everyone as long as they are treated with respect by all.

There are also historical sites throughout the trail system, including an antique boiler used at the sawmill in Summerville Forest.

Volunteering for over 15 years, Richards is immensely proud of how the off-roading community supports small businesses throughout their trail system and raises money for charity. Last year, the club donated $84,000 to the hospital in Lindsay and they hope to raise $100,000 during their annual poker run event.

"It gives the opportunity for people to get out more in nature and share it with their kids and families," said Richards.

She also notes that riding off-road vehicles provides accessibility for many members who otherwise could not enter deep into the forest with their wheelchair or other mobile aids. The late Raymond Nesbitt, who was paraplegic, was a proud member of the ATV association and a frequent rider along their trails.

For both autistic adults and children, riding in an off-road vehicle can be a pleasing sensory experience and offer a therapeutic respite deep in the forest.

The organization is greatly appreciative of its volunteers and provides them equipment and vets signalling they are a part of the volunteer force. Volunteers are also treated to a dinner at the end of the year in appreciation.

Permits are now on sale for the 2026 riding season. Permits can be obtained through their website katva.ca. Funds from the permits contribute back to the organization's operation and maintenance costs, and other fees associated with the riding club. Most of all, their support goes back into keeping public trails for everyone accessible.

The Kawartha ATV Association hosted their annual Season Kick Off Ride on May 2. The ride goes through Kawartha Lakes and ends at the Austin Sawmill in Kinmount.

The Kawartha ATV Association is always looking for new volunteers. If you would like to contribute to the sport and love of off-road riding, please visit their website at katva.ca.

Glebe Park Open House
Saturday, May 9, 10:00am–12:00pm

Great Hall
Fleming College – Haliburton School of Art + Design
297 College Drive, Haliburton, ON, K0M 1S0

Join the Glebe Park and Museum Committee for a presentation on the developments and improvements in Glebe Park over the past years.

Following the presentation, join us for short a tour to see what's new in the Park.
Light refreshments served.

have fun be active do it in Dysart et al

www.dysartetal.ca/explore-and-play

Public bridge remains up in the air

from page 1

as to accommodate a suggested headspace between the water and the walkway, which Camelon noted was a requirement from Transport Canada. "They want to see bridges go in, you know, as good or better, than what comes out," he said at the March meeting.

But at last week's meeting, Camelon was able to present an alternate option. Through consultation with DM Wills, the director of public works confirmed that it would be possible to lower the soffit elevation, removing the arched shape. As the crossing spans a navigable waterway, the project is subject to the Canadian Navigable Waters Act. Transport Canada has confirmed that the waterway at this location is classified as an unscheduled waterway, which allows the municipality to pursue approval through a public resolution process, rather than a full Transport Canada permit application.

"If we can resolve all the comments or concerns in-house, it doesn't need further Transport Canada approval," confirmed Camelon, noting that information would be shared for 30 days in local newspapers, as per requirement. "If there's something that is really a sticking point, then Transport Canada does get involved, and it will probably lengthen the process a bit more."

"I've been trying to get Transport Canada up here to say that it's not navigable water," said Dysart Mayor Murray Fearrey. "Which I think they agree, but they haven't got up here yet. If they can do that, that might speed the process up."

Camelon noted that the public consultation is likely the fastest process.

"Does that mean this bridge will get done this summer?" asked Fearrey.

"Fingers crossed," said Camelon.

Despite identifying concerns with the pedestrian bridge at Head Lake Park, council remains at odds to decide on it's future design. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

Councillor Barry Boice voiced his displeasure with the engineering firm, DM Wills. "I feel like they let us down," he said. "It's my opinion that they should be looking for ways to save us money somehow, and I think they dropped the ball on it."

Boice was noting the $10,000 price tag for the company to redesign the bridge lowering the soffit elevation and therefore changing the shape.

"I definitely echo that," chimed in Councillor Pat Casey. "I honestly feel like we don't even need the engineering company anymore if we just put it out for an RFP (Request for Proposal) for a design and build, there's two or three other people like that who can put together that whole thing and install it without furthering more engineering costs."

Camelon noted that the project went out for RFP in 2024, with DM Wills as the successful bidder. "To their defence, they provided exactly what we asked for."

The director shared that some one the original iterations of the bridge, from council suggestion, included the option to allow for a maintenance vehicle to cross the bridge. Since that original suggestion, the component for a vehicle requirement has been dropped. "This is where we are now," said Camelon. "If council wants to abandon it and do a design build, I wouldn't recommend that, we're this far now, but that is certainly council's decision."

Councillor Casey reiterated that he wants to put out a Request for Proposal. "We've kicked this can around enough," he said. "The budget was the eye-opener for everyone here at council."

"Your best bet to move forward, if you want it done this year, is to follow Rob's advice," said Tamara Wilbee, the CAO for Dysart.

If they were to re-issue an RFP, Camelon noted that based on procurement policy, it would not be rewarded until mid-May, once again delaying the project.

Council made the decision to move ahead with the proposed project, allowing for $10,000 to go towards new drawings, in conjunction with a public resolution process on the lowering of the soffits. "I think we're on the right track here," closed Fearrey.

50 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
PROPOSED ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT
TO ZONING BY-LAW 2005-120 OF THE
MUNICIPALITY OF DYSART ET AL

- **DATE:** Tuesday, May 26, 2026
- **TIME:** 9:05 AM
- **LOCATION:** **Take notice that the public meeting for zoning by-law amendment will take place in Council Chambers in the Municipal Office 135 Maple Avenue, Haliburton, Ontario and in electronic format using Zoom. The meeting will be live streamed to YouTube.**

Application:

Lands of Emmerson Lumber Ltd. – File No. D14-ZB-2026-007

Purpose and Effect: The proposed amendment would rezone the subject property from Urban Residential Type 1 (R1) to Highway Commercial (CH) to maintain the existing parking and storage use related to the Retail Lumber and Building Supply Establishment located on the adjacent property.

Location: Civic Address – 30 Victoria Street, legally described as Part Lot 17, Block Q, Concession 8, Plan 1, Part Lots 6 and 7, Plan 19R-4416, Parts 1 and 2 in the Geographic Township of Dysart, now in the Municipality of Dysart et al.

For more information about electronic meetings and public participation in an electronic meeting, contact the Planning Technician at twilson@dysartetal.ca,.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS MATTER INCLUDING INFORMATION ABOUT APPEAL RIGHTS: Contact the Planning and Land Information Department by appointment during regular office hours (8:30 A.M-4:30 P.M, Monday to Friday), or by contacting Kris Orsan, Manager of Planning at korsan@dysartetal.ca.

Dated at the Township of Dysart, this 5th day of May 2026.

Kris Orsan, CPT,
Manager of Planning
Planning and Land Information
Municipality of Dysart et al
135 Maple Avenue, Haliburton, Ontario K0M 1S0
Phone: 705-457-1740 ext. 626
E-mail: korsan@dysartetal.ca

Unwelcome odour leads to costs for council

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

An unpleasant odour has put business on pause for Haliburton's branch of Life Labs. The facility is housed in the Haliburton Highlands Health Centre, which also hosts Hill Chiropractic and Physiotherapy, Haliburton Vision Care Centre, Haliburton Midwives, and the Family Health Team.

Dysart staff were directed to retain Pinchin Ltd. to complete a ventilation performance review of the facility, to try to get to the root of the odour.

During the April 28 regular meeting of Dysart council, the findings of the report were shared publicly. It was noted that a recent assessment identified elevated carbon dioxide (CO_2) and total volatile organic compound (TVOC) concentrations within the facility.

"Based on a review of the existing HVAC systems, available documentation, and site observations, the facility appears to be experiencing building-wide reduced ventilation effectiveness, which is likely contributing to the elevated CO_2 and TVOC concentrations observed throughout the building," reads the Pinchin report to council.

Key findings of the report direct Dysart staff to conduct a comprehensive air audit review to verify and optimize supply air and outdoor air delivery throughout the facility, improve maintenance practices, including filter inspection and replacement frequency, adjust control strategies to support continuous or scheduled fan operation during occupied periods, and evaluate the need for additional outdoor air systems, including dedicated heat recovery ventilators or a dedicated outdoor air system, particularly for areas currently underserved or lacking direct ventilation.

The needs for the building comes with a price tag of $23,913.60, plus an additional $2,000 for electrical costs. This is an unbudgeted expenditure.

Life Labs penned a letter to Dysart staff, requesting a response in ten days, specifying the direction to which the building will be headed. Andrea Mueller, the manager of programs and events, who presented the report in the absence of Andrew Wilbee, the director of Parks and Recreation, noted that Life Labs had brought in an external company to run tests, who came back with the same results as Pinchin.

"It'll be costly," said Councillor Pat Casey, "but I think it's a necessity." Mayor Murray Fearrey agreed. He was weary about waiting any extra time to solidify quotes, and instead suggested moving ahead in a prompt manner to mitigate additional wait times for the community.

CAO Tamara Wilbee shared that staff would release a scope of work to receive comments and feedback on what needs to be completed. Casey shared that the unbudgeted expenditure would be "money well spent," noting that it would solve the air problem, but not necessarily the odour immediately.

Councillor Nancy Wood-Roberts inquired about whether Life Labs could use another location while their current space is undergoing these challenges. She suggested a trailer, or perhaps a room at the local Legion. Wilbee shared that there would be costs associated with renovating an additional space. "So I don't think that's their ideal situation," she said. Council was in support of setting up a trailer if the close date is prolonged.

Council approved moving forward with the unbudgeted expenditure, with further updates available as the process moves forward. Life Labs remains closed as of the time of press.

One step ahead for Hook crosswalk

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

With increased foot traffic along Highland Street, Dysart staff have been looking at ways to mitigate risk.

At its December 9, 2025 meeting, council resolved to obtain engineering fees for the rehabilitation of Highland Street from York Street westerly to Gelert Road, with a provision for a pedestrian crossover (PXO) at 126 Highland, which houses the Hook, Line and Sinker restaurant.

Staff received costing for full rehabilitation, including design, geotechnical and tendering services for $34,000 plus applicable HST. With this price point, Rob Camelon, the director of public works, advised to not move ahead with the project in its entirety. "I'm not sure there's any indication that that work is going to move ahead in the next couple of years," he said. "And I'm not sure you want to spend money on the engineering in case the incoming council, it's not a priority for them."

Instead, he has pulled out one small part which he identified as as priority: the PXO, at a cost of $9,500 plus applicable HST.

"That's a terrible piece of road coming into town," said Dysart Mayor Murray Fearrey, asking when the section is up for replacement.

"It's certainly showing its age," said Camelon. "But it's going to be a big ticket item." Camelon suggested upwards of $700,000 to replace that section of roadway.

"It's an embarrassment coming into a tourist town with a road like that," said Fearrey. "I think we've gotta do it. It's not much different than the sidewalks."

"It's been patch on patch the past few years," agreed Camelon.

"That's a terrible solution," said Fearrey.

Council agreed to move ahead with the crossover at 126 Highland Street, with further information about the costs associated with the project coming forward as they become available.

First Responders Day

For the fourth year on First Responders Day, members of Haliburton County Paramedic Service, municipal fire departments, and the Haliburton Highlands Ontario Provincial Police came together collectively to welcome the public to a Haliburton County Community Open House to learn more about the critical role both professional and volunteer emergency responders have in keeping our communities safe. /TIM YANO, staff photographer

Paramedic Jenn Button shows Joe Iles around an ambulance on First Responders Day in Minden. /THOMAS SMITH staff

Cadet Victoria Preddy and P.C. Jake Dobson pose in front of one of the OPP's ATVs.

Ross Peacock and Jasmine Marshall, Red Cross volunteers were all smiles at First Responders Day in Minden.

Community shows up for Barker family

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

Carnarvon locals Curtis and Megan Barker have received an outpour of support towards a Go Fund Me page to assist with Curtis' stage four cholangiocarcinoma treatment.

Curtis is currently receiving Enhertu, a specialized medication to treat bile duct cancer. /submitted

A local family is looking to thank the community for giving them a second chance at life.

Carnarvon locals Megan and Curtis Barker have had their fair share of highs and lows, since Curtis was diagnosed with stage four cholangiocarcinoma, or bile duct cancer just over one year ago. The couple have two young daughters, both under the age of four, and have spent time, money, and a significant amount of energy navigating the best treatment plan for the involved dad.

"There's unexpected costs to someone navigating stage four cancer," shared Megan, noting the hospital stays, childcare, and additional medications.

While Megan's private insurance covered the first portion of treatment, the next steps were less certain. The disease has since spread to his liver, lymph nodes, and spine, with Curtis enduring first-line chemotherapy and immunotherapy, followed by second-line chemotherapy, and radiation. Along the way, he has faced multiple hospitalizations, including pneumonia, a blood infection, influenza A, and colitis.

Through testing at Princess Margaret Hospital, it was noted that Curtis's tumor is HER2 3+ positive, which opens the door to a promising targeted treatment called Enhertu. "The goal is to stabilize me or shrink the tumours a bit," he said, noting that it could drastically improve his overall quality of life.

Unfortunately, Enhertu is not funded in Ontario, and is not covered by private insurance.

But this was where the community came in. "We didn't want to bankrupt our family," said Megan, "but we also knew we needed to try everything we could."

The treatments hover around $10,000 per session, which is required every three weeks. The more treatments Curtis receives, the higher the likelihood of success.

With the help of friends Michelle Doiron and Jennifer Hicks, the family launched a Go Fund Me Page, with a goal of $100,000 to try to attain 10 sessions.

And while Megan and Curtis kept their expectations low, the goal was surpassed by community support within 72 hours.

Word of the fundraiser spread quickly through social media, with likes, shares, and comments. The funds continued to trickle in, ranging from all amounts, including $5,000 from NHL player and Haliburton local Matt Duchene. But it wasn't just the financial contributions that made the family feel supported, it was also the sharing on social media, and the words of encouragement offered.

"We're just really grateful that the community stepped up so much," said Megan, "either by contributing or sharing, we're just so thankful."

Out of the hundreds who donated, Megan and Curtis noted that the vast majority were locals. Friends, family, customers from their family business, or former teachers; a testament to how much they have given back to the community over the years.

"Curtis has spent his life showing up for others. Now, we're asking for your help to show up for him," reads the Go Fund Me page. "Please consider donating, and if you're able, sharing this page - it truly means the world to Curtis, Megan, and their girls."

As the Barker family navigate their way forward, they are continuing to keep the Go Fund Me active, to account for hidden costs in treatment, as well as an opportunity to provide ongoing updates. On April 20, Megan took to the page to share the first update: "Curtis is receiving his first treatment of Enhertu right now," she said. "So far, so good. He wouldn't be here without you all. We are so blessed to have such a generous and kind community, standing by Curtis's side."

Notice
(Applicant – Henderson/Allen)

In the matter of the *Municipal Act* and in the matter of a proposed By-law of the Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands East to close, stop-up and convey certain portions of a Original Shore Road Allowance along the shore of **Koshlong Lake,** more particularly hereinafter described.

Notice Is Hereby Given, pursuant to the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, and the Municipal Procedures, that the Township Council of The Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands East proposes to consider and if deemed advisable, to pass at a virtual meeting on **Tuesday, May 12, 2026,** 9:30 a.m., a By-Law to close, stop-up and convey to the adjacent land owners the following described lands:

Firstly: Part of Lot 16, Designated as 66" Road Allowance in Front of Lot 16, Concession 13, Township of Glamorgan, Municipality of Highlands East, County of Haliburton, shown as Part 2 on Plan of Survey 19R-11217, made by **Bishop Geyer Surveying Inc., completed October 2, 2025.**

Secondly: Part of the Original Shore Road Allowance in Front of Lot 16, Concession 13, Township of Glamorgan, Municipality of Highlands East, County of Haliburton, shown as Part 3 on Plan of Survey 19R-11217, made by **Bishop Geyer Surveying Inc., completed October 2, 2025.**

The Plan of Survey 19R-11217 is available to you for inspection by you making an appointment at the Municipality of Highlands East offices, Wilberforce, Ontario.

The above-described lands, by resolution, have been declared to be surplus. If you wish to attend the virtual meeting, please call or e-mail the Municipal Clerk prior to the day of the public meeting so you can be provided with a link or phone number for the meeting. If you do not have the capability to attend a virtual meeting, please provide written comments to the Municipal Clerk prior to the public meeting.

Any person or his or her counsel, solicitor or agent who attends the virtual meeting shall be afforded an opportunity to make representations in respect of the within matter.

A**nd Take Further Notice** that if the public wishes to participate regarding the purchase of Shoreline Road Allowance please contact the Municipal Clerk.

Dated at the Municipality of Highlands East, Wilberforce, Ontario this 28th day of April, 2026.

Robyn Rogers, Municipal Clerk
Box 295, 2249 Loop Road,
WILBERFORCE, ON K0L 3C0
rrogers@highlandseast.ca
(705) 448-2981

Notice
(Applicant – Balgopal)

In the matter of the *Municipal Act* and in the matter of a proposed By-law of the Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands East to close, stop-up and convey certain portions of a Original Shore Road Allowance along the shore of **Salerno Lake** more particularly hereinafter described.

Notice Is Hereby Given, pursuant to the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, and the Municipal Procedures, that the Township Council of The Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands East proposes to consider and if deemed advisable, to pass at a virtual meeting on **Tuesday, May 12, 2026,** 9:30 a.m., a By-Law to close, stop-up and convey to the adjacent land owners the following described lands:

Part of the Original Shore Road Allowance in front of Lot 2, Concession 4, Township of Glamorgan, Municipality of Highlands East, County of Haliburton, shown as Parts 2 and 3 on Plan of Survey 19R-11211, made by **Bishop Geyer Surveying completed November 6, 2025** *(Part 3 being the flooded portion to be retained by the Municipality of Highlands East).*

The Plan of Survey 19R-11211 is available to you for inspection by you making an appointment at the Municipality of Highlands East offices, Wilberforce, Ontario.

The above-described lands, by resolution, have been declared to be surplus. If you wish to attend the virtual meeting, please call or e-mail the Municipal Clerk prior to the day of the public meeting so you can be provided with a link or phone number for the meeting. If you do not have the capability to attend a virtual meeting, please provide written comments to the Municipal Clerk prior to the public meeting.

Any person or his or her counsel, solicitor or agent who attends the virtual meeting shall be afforded an opportunity to make representations in respect of the within matter.

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Dated at the Municipality of Highlands East, Wilberforce, Ontario this 28th day of April, 2026.

Robyn Rogers, Municipal Clerk
Box 295, 2249 Loop Road,
WILBERFORCE, ON K0L 3C0
rrogers@highlandseast.ca
(705) 448-2981

International Magnificent Bugs in Rugs exhibit lands in Haliburton

IVY KATZ
Journalist

Yvonne Iten-Scott is a local fibre artist and curator of The Magnificent Bugs in Rugs exhibit at Fleming College. Drop into the great hall before the end of May to see it. /IVY KATZ staff

These Magnificent Bugs in Rugs come from all over great Canadian nation, the USA, the UK, Australia, Japan, and Norway, have landed here in Haliburton. Fleming College alumni, fibre artist, and curator Yvonne Iten-Scott, has packed these incredible rugs, into suitcases—at 18 x 24 inches, the rugs are a perfect fit for travelling the world. She has taken them throughout Canada and the USA over the last two years on a three year travelling exhibit. Currently in its second year, Iten-Scott is heading to Utah next, and has her sights set on Japan, Australia, and England, with a possible extension of the tour.

The initiative begun during the late stages of the pandemic about three years ago, Iten-Scott and partner Leslie Knight decided they wanted to educate and inspire children in the ancient craft of rug-hooking. Iten-Scott says it's hard to say how long each rug takes, but a couple months and a few hundred hours is probably the minimum. Each fibre is literally pulled through by hand. There are two techniques: rug-hooking pulls the fibre through from back to front using something like a crochet hook on burlap sack, while punch-needle method punches it through from the front to the back. All manner of materials can be used and the finished products are beyond stunning, with 3D effects possible for those so inclined. The energy the rugs vibrate fills the room—it must be the care and devotion each artist has put into their rugs. It truly is something to behold.

Today, rug-hooking is labelled as a fine art in North America but its roots were not always as posh. The history of rug-hooking goes back to the early 1800s, when machine made carpets made for the rich brought floor coverings into vogue. Yorkshire, England has some of the earliest examples of hooked rugs. Workers in weaving mills were allowed to collect pieces of yarn, known as thrums, up to nine inches in length, which were useless to the mill. The workers would put those thrums through a backing at home and made their own floor coverings. Rug-hooking as we know it today, is likely to have developed in North America and along the eastern Seaboard, from the United States to the Canadian Maritimes to Labrador ad Newfoundland. As immigrants came over on ships, it is likely items such as rags from clothing beyond repair and other scraps were repurposed to create homemade rugs on board.

Rug-hooking is an early example of people repurposing materials into a new, necessary, and aesthetic purpose.

Iten-Scott is helping to ensure this art does not get lost in these modern times, which was the main driver of framing the Magnificent Bugs exhibit for children. Iten-Scott and Knight reached out to 45 artists in their network around the world to bring this brainchild to life. Every artist asked issued an immediate yes, says Iten-Scott, and the artist's had 18 months to make the rugs, with size being the only stipulation.

The exhibit's name is inspired by children's folklore and the idiom: snug as a bug in a rug. Each one of the rugs comes with a fun-fact about the particular insect depicted. Regardless, this exhibit is a sight to see and sure to delight everyone, at any age.

Norway cover artist Håkon Grøn Hensvold's rug—the only rug at a slightly larger size—is a beautiful rendition of a night time garden scene.

In addition to the exhibit, Iten-Scott and fellow visionary Leslie Knight published a book version titled *Find the Magnificent Bugs in Rugs*. The book includes a poem and fun fact for each bug and can be purchased at the Fleming College gift-shop, with all proceeds going towards free workshops for children.

The book is dedicated to American artist Susan Ferraro, described as a "dynamo," and one of the first artists Iten-Scott and Knight reached out to. Ferraro was insistent on portraying a moth--their most requested insect. Ferraro completed a luna moth and shortly after finishing her rug, Ferraro had passed away suddenly and unexpectedly, says Iten-Scott. Ferraro's husband loaned out the rug for the exhibit. When Iten-Scott was doing research after the terrible news, she read that according to folklore, the luna moth symbolizes the rebirth and the afterlife.

The Exhibit runs daily until the end of May. Just pop into Fleming College to see it.

Introduce your children to this fabulous art. On Sunday May 24th 2026 there will be a FREE drop-in workshop for children, 1-4pm in the Great Hall at Fleming. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Sign up with Yvonne via email: itenscott@aim.com

For those interested in learning this versatile art, join Yvonne Iten-Scott for a five-day Rug-Hooking and Punch Needle workshop May 25 - 29th offered at Fleming College. Visit the Fleming College website for more info.

www.haliburtonchamber.com 705-457-4700 admin@haliburtonchamber.com

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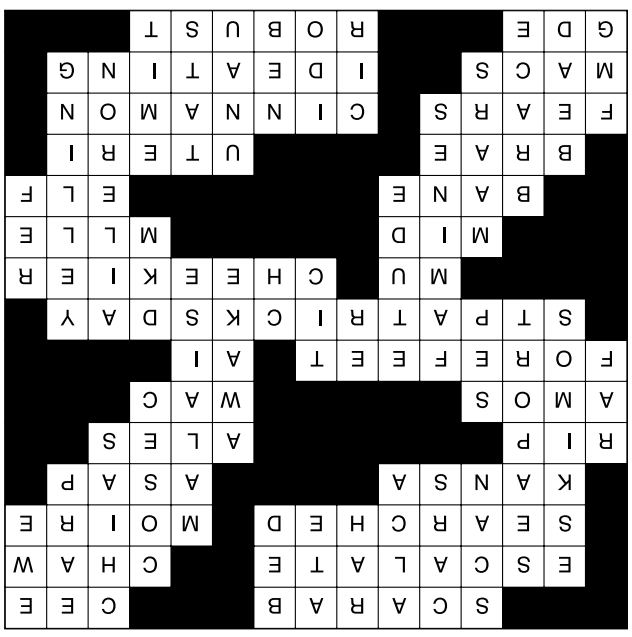
Students go beyond the limit

Students from HHSS showcased their works of art at the opening of Limitless, this year's HHSS Student Art exhibition. The exhibition will be on display until June 18. /TIM YANO staff photographer

CROSSWORD ANSWERS



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Local Service Directory

Pride in the Highlands starts their season

"I'm going to the cottage."

These are the now iconic words spoken in the tv series "Heated Rivalry" and probably raised some awareness of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community that lives or visits many small rural communities in Ontario.

Here in Haliburton, a strong, diverse, and vibrant group of volunteers with supportive friends and allies originally formed Minden Pride about 10 years ago. Now known as Pride in the Highlands, this group as a not-for-profit organization has evolved into building partnerships with our diverse, growing community and is excited about this year's lineup of events.

A "Kick-off to Summer and fundraising event" will take place with a special showing of the highly anticipated movie *The Devil Wears Prada 2* (starring Meryl Streep and Anne Hathaway) at the Highlands Cinema (in Kinmount) on Wednesday, May 20, at 2:30 p.m. and 6:30 pm. Tickets are $22.60, available only online at prideinthehighlands.ca and are expecting to sell out fast. In order to support our local movie theatre, a cash bar is available for confectionery food items. And the displays of movie memorabilia are worth a visit!

So, what's on for this summer? Pride in the Highlands has a number of additional events scheduled throughout May until September. These include a bowling day, an English High Tea, Trivia night, and Pride week (Aug. 17-24), just to name a few. The ever-popular float down the river parade on Sunday, Aug. 24 is attended by many families and friends of all ages! Details about sponsorships, volunteering, and events can be found on their website.

Volunteer David Thairs is this year's Sponsorship Coordinator and Business Community Liaison. "Our Pride events take a lot of planning and resources and we are graciously looking for support with volunteers, donations, providing services or products. It takes a village to make it happen."

Pride in the Highlands welcomes everyone. "We want to build good relationships in the community and show that our events support the diversity, equity and inclusion for people from any race, religion, sexual orientation, and socio-economic backgrounds. This year's theme of "Express Yourself" amplifies that message."

We know that Pride in the Highlands continues to drive meaningful impact with substantial economic benefits for our local businesses during the summer and beyond. In fact, it is the largest cultural event in the Haliburton Highlands with over 2000 participants. For more information, visit their website at PrideintheHighlands.ca.

Submitted

Telling our Stories

The Telling Our Stories Speakers Series is pleased to welcome Mandy Shintani and Susan Yatabe to the Highlands on Wednesday, May 13, to present *The Samurai in Our Closet*, their fascinating, untold stories of their Japanese Canadian family's experiences before and during World War II. This little-known chapter of Canadian history is a reminder of what happens when fear and politics override civil rights. It's a story of resilience, recovery, and why those lessons still matter today.

Mandy Shintani lives in Vancouver, BC. She is the chairperson of the Japanese Canadian War Memorial Committee. Susan Yatabe has been the researcher for the Nikkei National Museum & Cultural Centre's Warrior Spirit website and the podcast.

The Speakers Series, a member of the Haliburton County Community Cooperative, takes place on the second Wednesday of each month from 7 to 9 p.m. pm. Note: Ticket sales for this presentation have exceeded our regular capacity at the Fish Hatchery, so we are moving to the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 129 in Haliburton.

Admission is $15/person. Pre-registration is highly recommended. To obtain tickets, contact Barrie Martin at 705-457-7557 or by email at barrieinthehighlands@gmail.com

Submitted

Local Service Directory

Maintaining Body and mind while aging

At the Community Coffee House taking place on Monday, May 11 from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Remembrance Hall at the Haliburton Legion, Dr. Norm Bottum will present some new and evolving information about physical and cognitive well-being. Following on his discussion at the March 2025 Community Coffee House on Metabolic Flexibility, Dr. Bottum will help us learn how we can "square the health curve" to maintain good health and independence as we grow older. Well-known to the Haliburton community as a family practitioner with the Haliburton Family Medicine Centre since 1987, Dr. Bottum now limits his practice to family, in-patient and long-term care and sports medicine, retaining a particular passion and interest in aging in an independent and healthy manner.

Northern Wildflowers, the local duo of Sue Shikaze and Myrna McBrien, will begin the evening with half an hour of live music, blending their voices and creating harmonies as sweet and fresh as the wildflowers they are named after. They will perform a selection of their own songs, as well as covers of songs by other women songwriters.

The Community Coffee House gatherings are open to all, at no admission fee, and no reservations required, with light refreshments available. They are hosted by the Baha'i community of Haliburton County, offering live music and presentations to inform and inspire, and providing a space for discussions about how we can make our communities better places.

For further information, please call 416-606-9657.

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Movies for the birds

On Thursday, May 14, Those Other Movies will be showing *H is for Hawk* with showings at 4:15 and 7:15 p.m. at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion. The film follows Helen (Claire Foy), who, after the sudden death of her father (Brendan Gleeson), loses herself in the memories of their time birding and exploring the natural world together.

To navigate her profound loss, Helen turns to the ancient art of falconry, training a wild goshawk she named Mabel. As she teaches Mabel to hunt and fly free, Helen discovers how deeply she has neglected her own emotions and life. What begins as an act of endurance transforms into an intimate journey of resilience and healing.

This film portrays grief with honesty and includes some jaw-dropping footage of some magnificent birds. It is based on the book by Helen Macdonald. With an exciting local connection, we are excited to welcome Amy from Royal Canadian Falconry in West Guilford (royalcanadianfalconry.com) who will be at the movies together with a hawk to share some information and answer questions. Tickets are just $10 cash at the door or purchase online from www.thoseothermovies.com.

For more information, contact: thoseothermovies@gmail.com

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Moving Sale. **May 16 and 17. 9am to 3pm.** 1200 Ritchie Falls Rd. Yard art, tools, some furniture from the house, lawn and outdoor tools, and miscellaneous items. Rain or Shine.

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NOTICES

Municipal Cemetery Spring Clean Up

Please be advised, that the Township of Algonquin Highlands staff will be completing the annual spring clean-up at our Municipal Cemeteries. The clean-up will begin Monday, April 27 and will be ongoing until May 15, 2026.

This clean-up effort will include removal of items that were displaced over the winter and that do not comply the Cemetery By-Law 2025-97, section 4, https://www.algonquinhighlands.ca/media/ywx-bu5ki/2025-97-cemetery-rules-and-regulations-acc.pdf

The clean-up helps to ensure the cemeteries remain a safe and accessible space for friends and families to visit. Maintenance Staff will be placing items in the storage bins at each cemetery for the items to be claimed.

All unclaimed items that remain after June 1, 2026, will be disposed of appropriately. Cemeteries are scheduled to re-open May 1, 2026.

If you require more information, please contact us at 705-489-2379 or email cemetery@algonquinhighlands.ca.

Classifieds

Call 705-457-1037
classifieds@haliburtonpress.com
Deadline Friday at 12 pm

COMING EVENTS

The Minden Health Care Auxiliary is having an

"End of Season" sale

at our Gift Shop located just outside the Long Term Care Home 6 McPherson St. Minden

Friday, May 8 & Friday, May 15 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Our sale will include clothes, purses, jewellery and more!!
Come on in, pick up a bargain and check out our new Spring Collection.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

A Celebration of Life will be held in John Miller's honour on Saturday, May 16, 2026, at 11 am at the HALIBURTON UNITED CHURCH, 10 George St, Haliburton, A luncheon will follow.

As an expression of sympathy, donations in John's memory can be made to the Haliburton 4Cs Food Bank, Woodlands Wildlife Sanctuary, or Places for People.

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OBITUARIES

Pamela Rolfe (nee Mitchell)

Resident of Haliburton

Peacefully, surrounded by family, at the Haliburton Hospital on Wednesday, February 25, 2026, in her 95th year.

Born on Valentine's Day, 1932, to Geoffrey and Gwendoline Mitchell. Beloved wife of Derek Rolfe (Predeceased). Loving Mother of Paul and David (Julie). Pamela will also be fondly remembered by her grandchildren, Bronwen and Derek Kenneth, as well as her great-granddaughter, Norah.

Pamela was a longtime bookkeeper of Carnarvon Lumber and was an early volunteer of the Stanhope Airport Committee. Pam was also a proud member of the Federated Women's Institute of Ontario. Pam was a Girl Guide Leader in both the UK and Canada. In her younger years, she was a columnist for the Richmond Hill Liberal Newspaper, covering events and news in Maple. Pamela's warmth, love for life, and ability to bring joy to those around her will never be forgotten. She will be fondly remembered by all who had the privilege to know her.

Celebration of Life

Friends and family are invited to attend a Celebration of Pam's life beginning at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 14th, 2026, at **THE COMMUNITY ROOM**, 13523 Hwy. #118 Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0 (705) 457-9209. For those unable to join us in person, the Celebration will be livestreamed via Zoom. As an expression of sympathy, donations in Pamela's memory can be made to the Arthritis Society of Canada, the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada, or Parkinson Canada. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME**, 13523 Hwy. #118 Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0 (705) 457-9209.

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		8	3			6	5	1
		6		4				
7	5	9		8	1		2	
3	9			2	7			8
	1	7				3		
5					4		1	9
			4		8		9	
					3		7	
	8					1		6

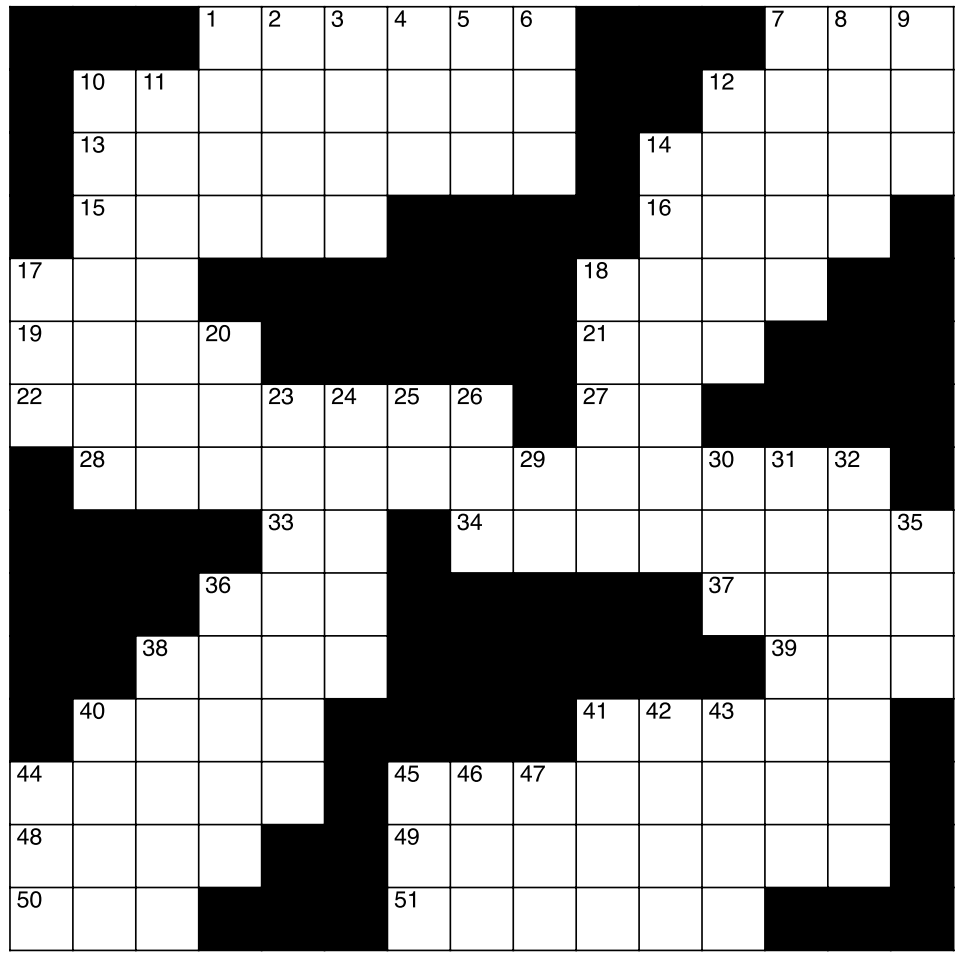
Level: Beginner

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers on page 17



CLUES ACROSS
1. Large dung beetle
7. Gambling game __-lo
10. Further along
12. Type of tobacco
13. Looked for
14. Silk fabric
15. Computer method to solve equations
16. As fast as can be done (abbr.)
17. Tear
18. Brews
19. "Famous" cookie baker
21. Women's Army Corps
22. Front parts of an animal
27. It's causing quite a stir
28. Beloved March holiday
33. 12th letter of the Greek alphabet
34. More impudent
36. Indicates center
37. Young woman (French)
38. A cause of distress
39. Santa's helper
40. Hillside
41. Many wombs
44. Is afraid of
45. Popular baked goods ingredient
48. Popular computers
49. Conceiving of
50. Google certification (abbr.)
51. Sturdy

CLUES DOWN
1. Peruse quickly
2. Automobiles
3. Razorbill genus
4. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
5. Consumed
6. A place to sleep
7. Small seeds
8. Legendary law man Wyatt
9. Female sheep
10. Indigenous peoples of eastern Siberia
11. A place ships dock
12. Reciprocal of sine
14. Discomfort
17. British Air Aces
18. Exit sleep
20. Solar energetic particle
23. Plagues characterized by starvation
24. Short musical composition
25. Trauma center
26. Habitual twitching
29. A place where checks are exchanged (abbr.)
30. Decameter
31. Hinged surface in a wing
32. Shouting
35. Sports official
36. Volcanic craters
38. Supportive device
40. It's part of a rosary
41. Two-toed sloth
42. Body art
43. Let out
44. Foreign medical graduate
45. Nonprofit journalism organization (abbr.)
46. Couples say it
47. Bird's beak

Answers on page 17

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The ice is *GONE!*
Contest winner comes withi
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THIS WEEK
Full House

SPECIAL SECTION
Spring Car Care
Local specialists tell how to make sure your car's ready for summer

THE HALIBURTON COUNTY
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School projects may face further delay

by PETER DOWNS
Staff Reporter

A new kink has been added to the Haliburton County Board of Education's construction plans, perhaps delaying its school building projects even further.

The board has found out it will have to go through an additional step to seek approval to upgrade the high school and build a new elementary school.

Because the two projects are far more expensive than the allocation levels originally approved by the province, the board knew it would have to get the green light to build from the provincial Education Improvement Commission (EIC).

But administrators have now learned the plans first need to be approved by the local committee that has been set up to oversee the amalgamation of the boards in Haliburton, Muskoka and Victoria Counties.

The new twist could end up turning the clock back on the board's already slowed construction timetable.

Under guidelines set by the EIC, all trustees on the local transition committee have to reach agreement on Haliburton's building plans before they can be approved.

The committee, chaired by Haliburton chairwoman Cheryl Murdoch, includes three trustees from each board, plus their directors. One native trustee from the Muskoka board may also be added to the committee. (The board directors don't hold the power vote).

See CONSTRUCTION page 4

PRICE: 84 cents plus GST - 90 cents

Waterlogged

Umbrellas and foul-weather gear were standard operating equipment for Saturday's unique log auction in Stanhope. Many braved the steady downpour in search of unusual logs and great bargains. At right, Paul Hébert keeps dry beneath his umbrella as the auctioneer takes bids. Above, René Butikofer checks out a yellow birch before the the bidding started. The second annual log auction was organized by the Haliburton Stewardship Council. More photos on page 18.

On the hustings:

The candidates are off and running in bid to sway local voters in federal election

by MARIA CALABRESE
Staff Reporter

Black flies aren't the only things that will be descending on us this spring now that campaigning for the June 2 federal election is under way.

While other parties are promising tax cuts to cash strapped Canadians, Liberal incumbent John O'Reilly is reminding voters that the country will not be borrowing any new money by the end of next year, and that only when the elimination of the deficit is imminent will the government be able to increase social programs and cut taxes.

These are the issues at the forefront of the Liberal election campaign:

On Bill C-68: A poll in the Victoria-Haliburton riding showed 49.6 % in favour of gun control and 49.4 % against. While O'Reilly said he takes responsibility for not voting on a bill that he knew the riding was going to lose anyway, he says this is not a single-issue election and that he should be judged on overall performance.

On jobs: The Liberals brought 238 infrastructure grants into the Victoria-Haliburton riding.

On amalgamation in Haliburton County: There are currently 10 municipal offices that serve 14,000 people and the county needs to streamline the way it administers services. "If they don't do it the provincial government is going to do it for them," O'Reilly said.

Reducing government spending will free up money that can be used to maintain roads and other services which are integral to maintaining the area's strong tourism base.

On services: Communication systems must be improved to make it easier to get a designated line for fax machines and computers and encourage small business and home offices in the area. O'Reilly will continue his campaign to embarrass big business by pointing out to big-city customers that they can't use the services they've paid for in rural areas.

Country-wide closures of hospitals, and the province-wide spending cuts to schools as well as the amalgamation of school boards have put education and health care at the forefront of Canadian concerns. And these issues make up the foundation of the Progressive Conservative platform during this election.

PC candidate Lorne Chester says his party would establish the Canadian Educational Excellence Fund which would provide matching funds for provinces and territories, as well as set the standards to form a common curricula to be followed by all schools.

A National Testing Institute, in co-operation with the provinces and territories, would test Grades 3, 8 and 12 students across the country to monitor the progress of school programs.

Chester said the country could free up money for not only these education initiatives, but for health services by increasing transfer payments to the provinces and reducing govern-

See PARTIES page 6

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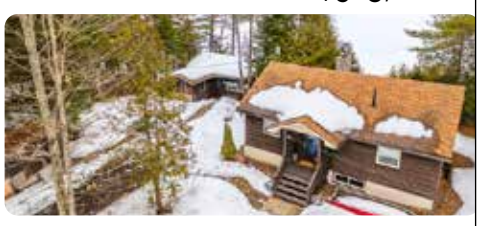
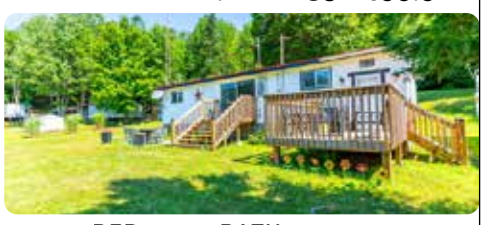


BED 3+2 | BATH 1+1 | MLS #X12954018

BOUGHNER RD
$199,900

ACRES 5.5 | MLS #X13061996

KUSHOG LAKE, HWY 35 $499,900



BED 4 | BATH 2 | MLS #X12604142

BASSHAUNT LAKE RD

BED 2 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13005862

EVERY SALE HAS A STORY

Linda and her team provided excellent pricing, sales, and marketing advice. They did their research as to the current market and helped us arrive at an aspirational but realistic price. Their assistance in presenting the property was fabulous and we sold within a week of posting

-R. Blickstead, Google Review

A big thank you goes to Linda Baumgartner and her team for their expert advice and service. Linda was a pleasure to work with and was professional and knowledgeable in handling the sale of our cottage. We can fully endorse Linda Baumgartner and her team for their integrity, honesty and commitment to our sale.

-S. Webb, Google Review

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